

these patients and that it increases with weight gain.

In conclusion, Eckfeldt and Freier have raised an interesting theoretical point regarding the low creatinine clearance in patients with anorexia nervosa. Our patients were, however, not ketotic and therefore Eckfeldt's and Freier's objection is not directly relevant. Furthermore, we are all too aware of the fallacies of basing indices of renal function on creatinine clearance,⁶ and have taken care to show that the true glomerular filtration rate based on clearance of edetic acid labelled with ⁵¹chromium is also diminished in these patients.

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to Professor Spencer and St Thomas's Hospital. It will be attractive to anyone interested in pulmonary pathology, and should be on the shelves of every hospital library. Whether individual pathologists can afford to pay £125 for a fourth edition when they already have the third is a moot point and will depend on their pulmonophilia.

When I reviewed the third edition I was irritated by the provision of an index in only one volume of a two volume set. This problem has not been rectified in the fourth edition. Perhaps publishers do not read book reviews or perhaps they are too eager to maximise their profits regardless of criticism. Ignore this defect and persuade your library to buy a copy, but if you become annoyed as I do by publishers' parsimony, write an irascible complaining letter to Pergamon Press, so that you irritate them as well. If they have to answer your letter it will cost them money!

G SLAVIN

Electron Microscopy in Human Medicine. Vol 11 (a). The Skin. Ed JV Johannessen and K Hashimoto. (Pp 343; £57.50.) McGraw-Hill. 1985.

This is the penultimate book in this massive 12 volume series (for some curious reason the last two volumes are to be called 11 (a) and 11 (b) rather than 11 and 12), the format being the same as the earlier volumes. Professor Hashimoto is the editor of this volume and there are 11 other contributors, mainly from Japan and the United States. The material of the book consists of well illustrated ultrastructural descriptions of skin pathology under the headings of neoplastic conditions; bullous dermatoses; hereditary ichthyoses; hair abnormalities; and viral infections, together with a chapter on the freeze-fracture technique as applied to the skin. No doubt, any institution that has already collected the previous volumes will want to add this one to the set and it will be a valuable reference work for pathologists interested in dermatology. What is missing, however, is a clear indication as to the conditions for which electron microscopy is likely to be diagnostically useful and which ultrastructural features are simply of academic interest.

JULIE CROW

Laboratory Manual of Histochemistry. Linda L Vacca. (Pp 596; \$34.) Raven Press. 1984.

This is traditional histological technique in

modern guise. Loose leaved, spiral bound, the manual is set in typescript of differing styles and pitch that change haphazardly within the same section or the same page. The illustrations are restricted to line diagrams and a few photographs that lack lustre. Some may feel the title to be pretentious; only one tenth of this book is concerned with enzyme histochemistry, and immunohistochemistry is briefly described in 23 pages. The rest of this book is a manual on tissue preparation, section cutting, and dye staining. Lillie and Puchtler influenced the work of the author and their papers dominate the bibliography.

Overall, this manual is comprehensive and seems to be useful and reliable, but its success on this side of the Atlantic will depend on its ability to rise above the lecture note presentation and suspect staying power in laboratory use.

RAB DRURY

Arthritis and Allied Conditions. Daniel J McCarty. 10th ed. (Pp 1773; US \$121.00.) Lea & Febiger. 1985.

This new edition to one of the best and most well known major rheumatology textbooks is published six years after its predecessor. Its length, over 1700 pages, permits a comprehensive review of virtually all rheumatological conditions. There are 104 chapters written by over 100 contributors who comprise the best of North American rheumatologists. Unfortunately, the absence of any British, or indeed European contributors, gives a rather too severe American flavour. By any standards, however, this is an excellent synopsis of rheumatic diseases.

The book is well indexed and contains key references within the text. Its outline is similar to the previous edition. It comprises an introductory section on the epidemiology and differential diagnosis of arthritis; a relatively detailed account of some of the scientific pillars of current rheumatological thought; a brief resume on antirheumatic drugs; and then sections on the major rheumatic diseases. The book concentrates on clinical aspects rather than giving detailed accounts of laboratory techniques. For the practising pathologist it will provide an ever ready source of clinical information to place in the context of pathological findings.

It is a book to dip into rather than read exhaustively. I found it simple to review rapidly diverse subjects: for example, can

Book reviews

Pathology of the Lung. Vols 1 and 2. 4th ed. H Spencer. (Pp 1176; £125.) Pergamon Press. 1984.

Fourth editions of text books require little reviewing. Pathology of the Lung is a well known and respected book that is a credit

mumps synovitis occur without orchitis; and what is the relevance and relative value of some of the newer tests for rheumatoid factors? Like all reference books it seems to skate thinly over ground with which I am familiar, and it was most useful for subjects about which I needed rapid recourse to the basic facts. For those dealing with rheumatological problems it will remain a superb reference book.

D SCOTT

Tumors of the Thyroid Gland. Supplement. Fascicle 4, Second Series. Atlas of Tumor Pathology. Second Series. WA Meissner. (Pp 41; \$4.50.) US Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1984.

This supplement, published in 1984, summarises advances in thyroid histopathology and the epidemiology of thyroid carcinoma that have been published since the appearance in 1969 of Meissner and Warren's fascicle on Tumors of the Thyroid Gland. Dr Meissner has covered numerous aspects that include the normal thyroid and tumour like lesions, as well as benign and malignant tumours. One major advance detailed has been the recognition of the many different histological appearances of medullary carcinoma recognised by immunoreactivity of the component cells with anticalcitonin. Dr Meissner has managed to convey a considerable amount of information in a most readable manner, combined with tables, photomicrographs, and about 150 pertinent references. The supplement is an essential addition to the library of every histopathology department. In fact, it may be regarded as a slim textbook that stands on its own.

I DONIACH

Current Issues in Toxicology. Sponsored by the International Life Sciences Institute. Ed HC Grice. (Pp 197; 52 DM.) Springer. 1984.

That we all fear cancer and that many chemicals are carcinogens are platitudes. The continued development of mankind, however, depends on the proper use of chemicals in medicines, in food, and at work, so there is a considerable need to test natural and synthetic materials for their carcinogenic potential and to show how they may safely be used.

The first section of this book discusses aspects of carcinogenicity testing done to meet the regulatory requirements that are supposed to protect us. It successfully describes the nature of the procedures used and the many biological factors that affect the results. The analysis and illustration of the difficulties encountered in attempting to apply animal data to man is rather less adequate and more mundane, although the worst arithmetical absurdities of American governmental calculomania have been avoided.

The second section is a limited account of genetic toxicology, more descriptive than analytical, and biased towards regulatory fashion rather than scientific principles.

Overall, the contents would be useful to someone wishing to read about current practices, and the references are a fair guide to more comprehensive sources, but the titles promise more than the text delivers.

AD DAYAN

Histochemistry. Theoretical and Applied. Vol 2. 4th ed. Analytical Technology. AGE Pearse. (Pp 624; 64 colour illustrations; £75.) Churchill Livingstone. 1985.

This second volume of what is ultimately intended to be a three volume edition of a classic text is likely to be of particular interest to histopathologists as it deals with the identification and staining of structural components, many of the methods evolving from "special stains." It comprises nine chapters covering proteins, peptides, and aminoacids; applied histochemistry of simple and glycosylated proteins; nucleic acids and nucleoproteins; carbohydrates and mucosubstances, with a separate section devoted to affinity cytochemistry; lipids, lipoproteins, and proteolipids; aldehydes and ketones; pigments and their precursors; biogenic amines, and, finally, inorganic constituents and foreign substances.

The text is copiously illustrated but this is marred by unfortunate transpositions or inversions of either legends or illustrations. The format of two columns makes for easier reading than previous editions, but the practical appendices are now in "mini" type. This, together with the price, means that it is likely to be used largely as a reference text.

LUCILLE BITENSKY

Histochemistry in Pathology. Ed M Isabel Filipe and Brian D Lake. (Pp 349; £39.) Churchill Livingstone. 1983.

This book is edited by two of the leading exponents in Britain of the application of histochemistry to diagnostic histopathology. It is a collection of articles of varied length written mainly by pathologists from almost all over the world. Some are introductory texts, like the first three dealing with the principles of fixation (Hopwood), substances identified by histochemical methods (Stoward), and the value of immunohistochemistry in diagnosis (Holborow). Others deal with particular topics ranging widely over the body organs and tissues. Thus there are three papers on the central nervous system, three on the gastrointestinal tract, two on the liver, and separate papers dealing with the cardiovascular system, skin, skeletal muscle, etc. Nine of the papers deal with tumours of various types.

The Editors state that the book is aimed at the pathologist and that they hope it may persuade pathologists to adopt histochemistry as an integral part of histopathology. Certainly, this book has collected information on which pathologists could base such a decision.

LUCILLE BITENSKY

Correction

On page 905 of the August issue the formula should read:

$$T^2 \leq \frac{(N_1 + N_2 - 2)p}{N_1 + N_2 - p - 1} F_{\alpha; p, N_1 + N_2 - p - 1}$$